BENGALURU, MONDAY, JULY 15, 2024 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 25 | Min 20 | Humidity 80% Scattered Thunderstorms Sensex 80,519 | Nifty 24,502 | Gold 73,285 | Silver 93,136 | Dollar 83.54 | Euro 90.98 | GBP 108.70

BRANCH OUT

Deadline of Aug 2024 round the corner, but tree census has so far covered just 8 of 225 wards

PAGE 5

SUN SHINE

Bescom releases guidelines to simplify application process for those who choose rooftop solar systems

PAGE 6

Restaurateurs write to excise minister with 2-am closing time request for those landing up in city at odd hours due to delayed flights to have spaces to eat and relax

CHEER LEADERS RAISE THE BAR

Hospitality sector pushes for new guidelines, while citizens worried about civic issues

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For Bengaluru's hang-out spots, the night is still young. The Bruhat Bengaluru Hotels Association (BBHA) has shot off a letter to Excise Minister RB Thimmapur seeking permission to allow hotels, pubs, and restaurants in the city to stay open till 2 am for the benefit of visitors who land up late in the Central Business District (CBD) area due to flight delays. They have also demanded that the minister prepare new guidelines to address various problems of the hospitality sector in the city.

"It is necessary to keep the hotels and pubs open till 2 am as many flights to Bengaluru are getting delayed. People, especially foreigners, who arrive late in Bengaluru find it tough to grab dinner, especially those who like to have dinner after a drink," said PC Rao, honorary president of BBHA.

He said that the BBHA has already written a letter to the Minister of Law, Parliamentary Affairs & Legislation and Tourism in this regard. "The Excise Department has introduced issuing licences online but it is of no use. As per the new system, the licence has to be

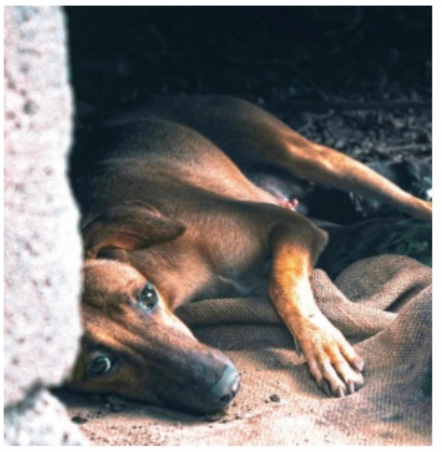
CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

"Some of our demands, including that for the issue of new guidelines, have been pending for quite a long time. We are facing a lot of problems due to illogical and unnecessary norms

Karunakar Hegde, State Bar Owners Association

Animal welfare on the block

Officials overstaying their tenure at animal husbandry dept holding back work related to animals, claim activists



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A section of animal welfare workers has raised the issue of many officials in BBMP's Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services (AHVS) overstaying their tenure as per Cadre and Recruitment (C&R) rules.

According to the information provided by the department in response to an RTI application, as many as 21 out of 49 officials have completed their five-year term away from AHVS, and are in violation of C&R rules.

As per C&R rules, gazette officers cannot stay in a post more than five years away from their home department.

Animal welfare workers say the officials who have overstayed their tenure become lethargic and show a lack of ownership in addressing many animal-related issues.

"Out of the 21 officials, eight are assistant directors, who lead the teams in each zone. If they do not operate well, animal welfare work on ground suffers," they alleged.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >>

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Theatre festival

In the 14th Edition of AHA, Theatre for Children Festival, a 7-day long festival, Ranga Shankara will be bringing together troupes from around the world for the theatre showcase. Troupes from countries like South Korea, Germany, Austria, Sri Lanka and Switzerland, as well as India will be performing. Themes of the play range from environmental conservation, joy of companionship, dismantling gender stereotypes and nurturing empathy in conflicts.
Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar;
When: July 15, 7.30 pm

02 Board games night

Unplug and unwind at this fun-filled evening of board games, camaraderie, and friendly competition. Whether you're a seasoned strategist or a casual gamer, this event has something for everyone. **Where: Small world, Koramangala 5th block; When: July 18, 8 pm**

03 Laughing house

Have your ribs tickled at the Kannada open mic hosted by Abhilash Nayaka who hails from Namma Pakka Local area Halasuru. Engineer by profession but Standup Comedian by passion and Theater artist since childhood. All his comedies are drawn from his upbringing and everyday experiences of his community. He has been active in Comedy since 2022 performing 150+ live shows.
Where: NYX Lounge cafe; When: July 20, 7 pm

No jobs: 100 candidates make desperate appeal

After waiting for over a year and protesting twice to get appointment orders, candidates shortlisted for assistant prof posts request governor for mercy killing

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Selected candidates staging a protest at Department of Collegiate Education (File Photo)

Disappointed and disturbed of the inordinate delay in issuing appointment orders, around 100 final shortlisted candidates for assistant professor posts launched a Postcard campaign with a shocking request. The candidates wrote to the Karnataka Governor seeking permission for mercy killing. "I have no option than seeking mercy killing. I have been unemployed for more than one-and-a-half years. I quit my job after my name was shortlisted for assistant professor but the government is delaying issuing the order on one or the other pretext," said a candidate from Shivamogga.

The examinations were held in March 2022 for recruiting 1,242 assistant professors for government first-grade degree colleges in the state. However, no recruitment orders were issued to the shortlisted candidates thus keeping them waiting since 2022.

"I worked as an assistant professor at a private college. I had to quit the job when I passed the examination for the post of assistant professor. I currently have no hope of getting an appointment letter from the education department. As of now, I am unemployed and not able to look after my family," said a shortlisted candidate.

Demanding the government to issue appointment orders, hundreds of shortlisted candidates for the assistant professor posts staged a dharna at Freedom Park in July 2023. A few Members of Legislative Council (MLCs) visited Freedom Park to extend their support to the candidates. On July 12, 2023, the agitation was called off following the Higher Education Minister's assurance to take a decision on this issue, which was never taken.

Appealing to the authorities to consider their demands on humanitarian grounds, a candidate has said that the authorities have not taken a decision, despite a direction from the honourable court. "We appeal to the Higher Education Minister to expedite the process of posting the candidates selected for assistant professor posts," the candidate said.

> **"I have no option than seeking mercy killing. I quit my job after my name was shortlisted for assistant professor**
> – One of the candidates

Around 400 candidates selected for assistant professor posts staged another dharna at the Department of Collegiate Education on June 10, 2024, in support of their long-pending demands.

Members of Legislative Council Puttanna and Ramoji Gowda visited the agitating candidates and assured to bring their demands to the Higher Education Minister's notice. "We have waited for more than one month for the authorities to help us but nothing has been done till date. We have no other option than approaching the Governor seeking justice," said a candidate.

'Forget transfer, focus on end goal'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Poor show

According to Sadhana Hegde, founder of Sahavarthin Animal Welfare Trust, a recent assessment report of all seven animal birth control centres in the city shows that they are being poorly maintained.

"We carried out an infrastructure assessment of all ABC centres and it has highlighted failures of executives of some of the centres. The assessment report shows that many of them are hardly visiting the centres, leading to their poor condition. Almost all the centres have basic infrastructure-related issues. The ADs are supposed to make frequent visits and keep centres up-to-date," said Hegde.

Initiate transfer

Animal welfare activists working at the grassroots level say the AHVS must review the tenure of existing BBMP animal husbandry department officials and initiate transfers of

officials who have overstayed. "Most of the officials are in their comfort zones and their underperformance is getting unnoticed... The need of the hour is to at least shuffle the ADs among different zones so they get to work with different service providers and share good practices. Currently, there is no churn among AD-level officials. Animal husbandry ministry should review these cases," said a city-based animal welfare worker. However,

> **Activists working at the grassroots level say AHVS must review tenure of BBMP animal husbandry department officials**

some experts say that the current team could be put through a visioning exercise with a larger focus on the end goal roles, instead of moving experienced officials back to AVHS.

"Transfers in government departments involve many variables. The purpose of this RTI is useless. However, the current team could be put through a visioning exercise with a larger focus on the end goal i.e. animal-human welfare. ADs can be rotated among zones to take on new challenges. The top should have a strong candidate, which is the bigger challenge. Although ADs can also become leaders in their own right in parallel," said Harini Raghavan of Citizens for Animal Birth Control.

Domestic violence, harassment cases rise

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Is Bengaluru a 'safe city' for women? Well, if we look at the complaints filed with the Women's Commission, the tagline needs to be altered. In the last four years, 2,861 complaints have been filed with the commission. Sources said that reports of domestic violence and harassment have been increasing, with women stating that while they wish to continue living with their husbands, they are seeking court protection from abuse.

Sources said that many complainants had this plea: "We want to live with our husbands, but we need protection from harassment." In such cases, couples are often counseled and encouraged to resolve their conflicts amicably. Despite this, many of these cases eventually proceed to family court.

Dowry-related harassment

In Bengaluru Urban district, 191 cases of dowry-related harassment have been reported. In 5 per cent of these cases, it was found that women filed false complaints against their husbands. Many cases have been addressed through counselling, with parties being advised to resolve their disputes amicably.

However, between 2021-22 and 2024-25, there have been five deaths due to dowry-related harassment. In 2021-22, there were 969 reported cases of domestic violence, and in 2023-24, 926 cases were reported. According to the Women's Commission, an additional 74 cases have been reported in 2024-25, up until April.

Domestic violence

During this period, 802 cases of domestic violence were reported, making up 75 per cent of all cases. The causes of domestic violence include husbands' extramarital affairs, alcoholism, physical and mental harassment, and dowry demands.

Additionally, 146 complaints have been filed regarding cheating in the name of love, with 50 per cent of the complainants being educated women.

In last four years, 2,861 complaints filed with women's commission

Besides these, there have also been 24 cases of sexual harassment, 10 cases of assault, and one case of murder reported. Women employees in the metro have complained of harassment, violence, and humiliation at their workplaces.

In Bengaluru district, from April 2021 to April 2024, 89 cases have been reported, along with 67 cases of police brutality.

Recently, two women employees working in the metro have complained of harassment by two senior officials, prompting the Women's Commission to direct metro authorities to investigate and submit a report.

Sources have indicated that the Commission received five complaints of dowry-related harassment resulting in deaths from 2021-22 to 2024-25 (until April).

According to the Women's Commission, 95 per cent of the cases filed are genuine, and legal action is taken accordingly. In some cases, the Commission counsels the parties and resolves the issues amicably.

However, financial fraud remains a significant concern, with women often being deceived by men they trust. Women are lured into lending money or investing in schemes promising high returns, only to lose their money. Some women have given money to their lovers or friends, only to be cheated. The Commission has received 24 complaints from women who have fallen victim to such financial fraud.

Naglakshmi Chaudhari, President of the Karnataka State Women's Commission, stressed the importance of caution among women regarding financial dealings and personal relationships.

She highlighted that many women are often deceived by men they trust, whether in the form of loans, investments, or other financial engagements. Chaudhari advised women to be vigilant and skeptical of schemes that promise high returns or require them to lend money, as these are common tactics used by fraudsters.

She urged women who have fallen victim to financial fraud or domestic violence to promptly seek assistance from the Women's Commission, which is dedicated to providing support and taking necessary legal actions to protect their rights and ensure justice.

BM Finance Fundas

Men and women both use digital payments in about 72 per cent of their transactions, indicating gender parity
Kearney-Amazon Pay study

Is it mandatory to fill Form 10IEA when filing ITR for FY2023-24?

Starting from Assessment Year (AY) 2024-25, the default tax regime in India for individuals, Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs), Associations of Persons (AOPs) (excluding co-operative societies), Bodies of Individuals (BOIs), and Artificial Juridical Persons is the new tax regime, as per amendments in Section 115BAC introduced by the Finance Act 2023. This means that taxpayers falling under these categories will be taxed based on the new system of income tax calculation unless they choose to opt-out.

Under the new tax regime, taxpayers face simplified tax slabs without the ability to claim various deductions and exemptions available under the old tax regime. However, eligible taxpayers have the option to opt out of the new tax regime and instead be taxed under the old tax regime, which allows for these deductions and exemptions.

For "non-business cases," taxpayers can annually choose between the old and new tax regimes when filing their Income Tax Return (ITR) on or before the due date specified under section 139(1) of the Income Tax Act. This flexibility allows individuals to assess their financial situation each year and decide on the most beneficial tax regime.

In contrast, eligible taxpayers with income from business and profession who wish to opt out of the new tax regime for AY 2024-25 must file Form 10IEA along with their ITR-3 or ITR-4 by the specified due date under section 139(1). This form serves as a formal declaration of their choice to be taxed under the old tax regime. Importantly, once Form 10IEA is filed for AY 2024-25, it cannot be revoked or withdrawn in the same assessment year. Taxpayers are required to continue with the old tax regime for that year, but they can choose to withdraw this option in subsequent years. This withdrawal option is available only once in a lifetime for business and professional cases (ITR-3 or ITR-4).

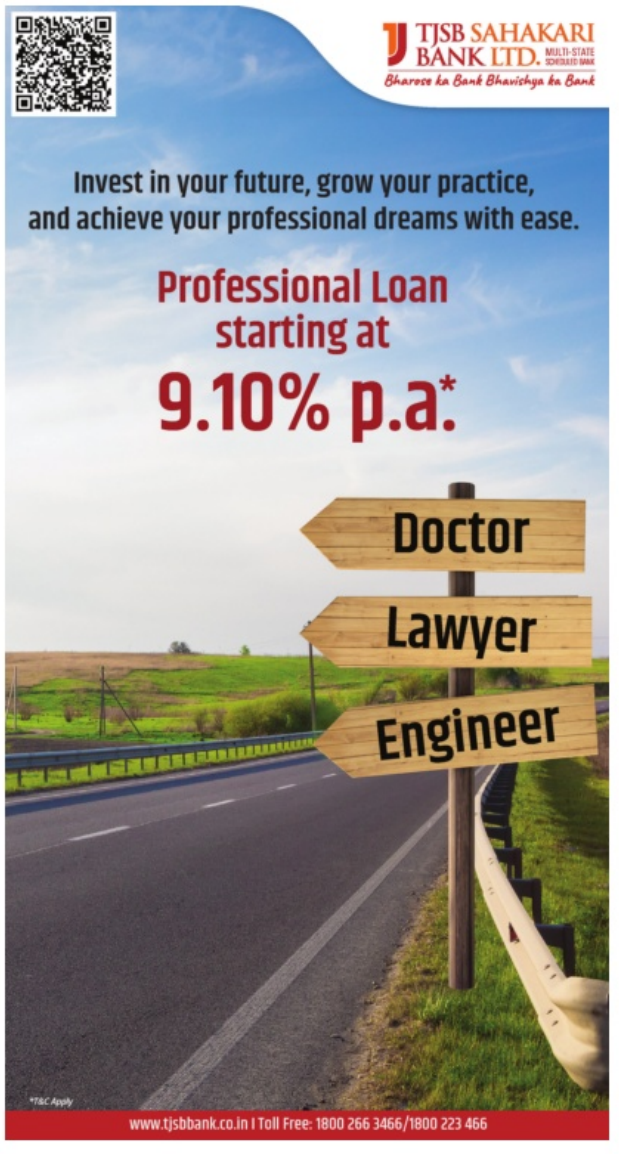
If a taxpayer encounters errors or validation issues related to Form 10IEA after submission, it's advised to verify and correct the details under "view filed Forms" before retrying the ITR filing. Submitting Form 10IEA multiple times on the portal should be avoided to prevent processing discrepancies.

For taxpayers opting for the new tax regime under Section 115BAD or Section 115BAE, they must file Form 10IF or Form 10IFA respectively within the due date specified under Section 139(1) of the Income Tax Act in the year they first choose the new tax regime. This filing is necessary to avail of the reduced tax rates and other benefits under these specific sections.

Importantly, taxpayers are not required to file Form 10IF or Form 10IFA every year. These forms need to be filed only once when opting for the new tax regime for the first time, ensuring compliance with the Income Tax Act.

–Sneha Kulkarni, ET Online

Advertorial Promotional Feature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No dry wells: Want to dig deep? Then catch more rain

Authorities mandate installation of water conservation systems in Bengaluru to ensure sustainable water supply, monitored through permissions and inspections as per state regulations

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In the previous year, Bengaluru faced severe drought, leading to the drying up of many borewells. Despite this, BWSSB ensured water supply to citizens

Unauthorised borewell digging has worsened city's groundwater levels. Now, permits and rainwater harvesting are mandatory

Starting immediately, individuals planning to excavate borewells in Bengaluru, whether for personal use or other purposes, must install a rainwater harvesting system (RWH). This new requirement, mandated by the BWSSB, aims to ensure a sustainable water supply for the city's future by integrating rainwater harvesting into borewell digging permits.

During February, March, and April of the previous year, Bengaluru experienced a substantial decline in groundwater levels due to severe drought conditions, leading to numerous borewells drying up. Despite these challenges, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) effectively ensured water supply for the city's 1.4 crore residents. Additionally, stringent measures were implemented to discourage the wasteful use of water for non-essential purposes.

The decline in Bengaluru's groundwater levels has been exacerbated by unauthorised borewell excavations and non-compliance with regulations. Consequently, individuals seeking to dig borewells for personal or other reasons are now required to obtain permission from the relevant authorities and install a rainwater harvesting system. Under the Karnataka Groundwater (Regulation and Control) Act of 2011, it is mandatory to obtain approval from authorities before commencing borewell excavation activities.

Permission from BWSSB will be granted only after submitting and approving an application via its website. Applicants must also guarantee the installation of a rainwater harvesting system and secure official consent before starting borewell excavation. In cases of unauthorised borewell digging, formal complaints will be filed, and legal actions will be pursued. Failure to install a rainwater harvesting system alongside borewell excavation may lead to BWSSB imposing restrictions on borewell usage. BWSSB chairman Ram Prasath Manohar V emphasised the importance of scrutinising applications for borewell digging permits to preserve rainwater and secure a sustainable water future for Bengaluru. He stated that instructions are being issued for the construction of rainwater harvesting systems and the utilisation of treated water for non-potable purposes. In addition to granting permissions, the BWSSB is providing guidelines for rainwater harvesting system construction and rainwater conservation. Inspections will be conducted post-borewell excavation, and actions will be taken if the mandated rainwater harvesting system is not found in place.

BBMP picks parking over people's needs: Protesters

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Around 100 residents, including senior citizens and children from 10 apartment complexes, held a silent protest on Kanakapura Road on Sunday. They were protesting against the BBMP's decision to reduce the width of the carriageway from 9 meters to 7.50 meters between Sarakki Junction and NICE Road. The residents mentioned that Kanakapura Road is undergoing development as part of the high-density corridor project. They alleged that, under this initiative, the BBMP intentionally reduced the road's width to accommodate parking for commercial establishments.

"This looks like a deliberate attempt to please big commercial establishments on Kanakapura Road, like the car showrooms that don't have enough parking spaces created in their premises. Multiple requests and meetings with the BBMP Traffic Engineering Cell and the engineer in charge have not given any results. They continue to build one lane of parking space for the commercial establishments," stated Abdul Aleem from Kanakapura Road Apartments Movement of Change (KARAMOC).

Residents protesting on Kanakapura Road

The highlight of the protest was Kesari Prasad, a 73-year-old resident dressed as Mahatma Gandhi. "I believe that we can defeat the British people but not the BBMP authorities. We have been appealing to the authorities to ensure a uniform width of the carriageway to facilitate commuting on Kanakapura Road without any hassles but the authorities continue reducing the width of the carriageway. There is no pedestrian signal at Sarakki traffic junction. It is very dangerous for pedestrians to reach the other side of the traffic junction," said Kesari Prasad. The residents demand that the BBMP refrain from facilitating parking infrastructure on Kanakapura Road and ensure a three-lane carriageway. They also insist on footpaths having a minimum width of 2 meters to 2.50 meters, with bollards installed to prevent vehicles from riding on them.

Gautam Kamath, a board member of Changemakers of Kanakapura Road Association, mentioned that the BBMP is developing the road as part of the high-density corridor project involving 12 roads. "The BBMP has reduced the width of the road between Banashankari Temple and Sarakki Junction. We agree with the BBMP because it is needed to cater to the needs of vendors in the market. There is no need for the BBMP to reduce the carriageway from 9 meters to 7.50 meters between Sarakki Junction and NICE Road. We have more than 20 median openings which will cause traffic jams. Development of the road under the high-density project should reduce traffic jams," said Gautam Kamath.

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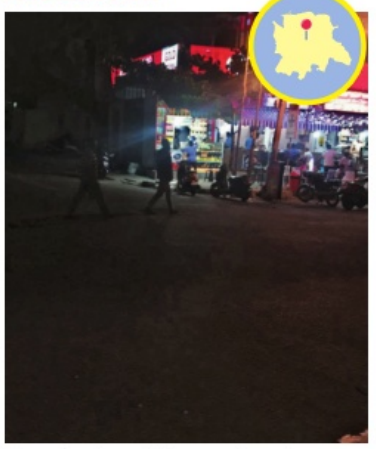
Orders ignored

Austin Town



Despite demolition orders from the BBMP, shops at the Palmgrove and Linden Street Junction in Austin Town are still open. Despite numerous complaints, no action has been taken by the BBMP.

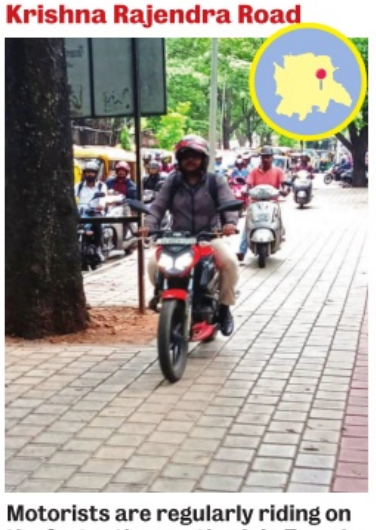
Pit problem

Mathikere

A pit dug a year ago and filled with mud at Mathikere Gokula 1st Phase on the 60 ft road near the HMT Main Road junction is causing narrow vehicle movement. The BBMP should address this.

Footpath misuse

Krishna Rajendra Road



Motorists are regularly riding on the footpath near the Jain Temple on KR Road. Authorities are urged to take action and address this issue.

"Poisoned" education system; experts say scrap NEET

At a state-level convention held at Kondajji Basappa Auditorium on Saturday to address the NEET scam, experts urged urgent reforms and action. Organised by the All India Save Education Committee (AISEC), the convention brought together prominent figures from the education and medical sectors to discuss pressing issues and advocate for immediate reforms.

Former Advocate General Prof. Ravivarma Kumar spoke about the urgent need to protect medical education and the health sector from corruption. He pointed out that educational issues from decades ago still endure, criticising the current system for poisoning the quality of education. Professor Kumar highlighted the centralisation of power and the "one country, one exam" policy as the fundamental reasons behind the NEET-2024 fraud scandal, criticising the National Testing Agency (NTA) for its lack of constitutional recognition. He argued that the central government's control over entrance examinations is undemocratic, calling for these processes to be administered at the state level.

The current exam system puts immense pressure on students, presenting unrealistic view of the medical field

Prof. L Jawahar Nesan, former Vice-Chancellor of JSS Technical University, expressed concerns over the mental health impact on students, who are driven to extreme measures due to the pressure and unfairness of the system."NEET is a blow to medical education. We must all raise our voices to fight for its cancellation," he said.

Professor Ravivarma Kumar speaking at the convention

Dr. N Prabhu Deva, former Director of Jayadeva Hospital, and former Vice-Chancellor of Bangalore University, criticised the political control over medical institutions, which has made medical education increasingly expensive and fraught with fraud. He called on the NTA and the government to acknowledge their faults and address the rampant corruption.

Paediatrician and medical columnist Dr Asha Benakappa added that the current examination system places immense pressure on students, portraying the medical field unrealistically. She criticised the substandard conditions in many medical colleges, where basic facilities and qualified professors are often lacking, attributing these issues to political apathy. **–BMB**

Bengaluru's tree count far from complete

Deadline of August 2024 nears, but census has covered only 8 out of 225 wards

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Amidst ongoing development projects reducing Bengaluru's green cover, environmentalists and tree activists are eagerly anticipating the results of the current tree census.

However, officials at the Forest Department of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) say the census is delayed by a few months and is now anticipated to be completed by November 2024.

The BBMP began the long-awaited census in February this year with an initial deadline set for August 2024. However, progress has been slow, covering only 8 out of 225 wards and counting nearly 2.5 lakh trees so far.

"The census is completed in eight wards including Vidyapeeta, Attiguppe, and some in Jayanagar. Simultaneously, the enumeration is going on in six BBMP zones. The process has not yet started in the Mahadevapura and Yelahanka zones. However, we have instructed the contractor to start it in these two zones from Monday," said BLG Swamy, Deputy Conservator of Forests, BBMP.

The BBMP initiated the project in February with a budget allocation slightly exceeding Rs 3.74 crore. For this project, the civic agency partitioned the city into eight zones, each encompassing about 1,000 sq km, aiming to enumerate approximately 20.8 lakh trees across Bengaluru's 9,761.6 sq km area. According to the project plan, the total expenditure will be determined upon completing the enumeration of over 20 lakh trees in the initial phase. Once this calculation is finalised, funds will promptly be authorised to ensure the completion of the census.

BBMP began the project in February with a budget of over Rs.3.74 crore, dividing city into eight zones to count nearly 20.8 lakh trees

City-based environmentalists have expressed concerns regarding the slow pace of the census, especially when it was taken up after a delay of more than four years.

Ordered by the Karnataka High Court in October 2019, BBMP floated the tender only in October 2023. "For some inexplicable reasons, the commitment to complete the tree Census is low. I am sure for the latest delay; there will be some convincing excuses. The lack of sense of urgency is inexcusable but I wonder what should be done to expedite the census. The comprehensiveness of this exercise has been diluted but still, it is not gathering pace," said Dattatreya Devare, Trustee of Bangalore Environment Trust.

> **"The census is completed in eight wards. The process has not yet started in other zones but we have instructed the contractor to begin from Monday**
>
> – BLG Swamy, BBMP

Under the ongoing process, every tree in the city will get a patch of yellow background with its unique number painted on it in black. The application used for documentation generates a unique ID, which combines the ward name and tree number. The process will record five parameters for each tree: girth, unique tree ID, species name, GPS location, and photographs.

Experts say it is important to complete the project as early as possible. The results can be used to modify or strengthen Bengaluru's action plan to fight climate change. Moreover, the outcome will also help assist the decision-makers in devising a strategy to balance development and green cover for a sustainable future.

Community unites to save lake

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Residents of AECS Layout unite to combat pollution endangering Chinnapannahalli Lake. Sewage from a nearby construction site has been flowing into the lake for months, causing foul odours, pollution, and oil contamination. Despite authorities issuing notices, delayed action led to severe contamination of the lake.

Even now, sewage continues to enter the lake. "The builders seem more interested in finishing their construction than in the health of thousands of residents around Chinnapannahalli Lake. The construction company has also closed a BBMP-approved road that walkers have used for decades, adding to the community's frustration," said Indira Belde from AECS layout.

File photo depicting lake contaminated with sewage

In 2022, funds were allocated to desilt the lake, but the work remains unfinished. Residents noted that newly constructed washrooms are non-functional. They are lacking taps and proper maintenance. Neglect of tree and shrub trimming is evident, alongside reports of illegal fishing activities.

"The community feels neglected by the contractors who are responsible for lake maintenance. These contractors, who oversee multiple lakes and parks, are rarely seen within five kilometres of Chinnapannahalli Lake. There is no planning, no proper workflow. We don't even know how much money was allocated for the lake's maintenance," said Belde.

Govt wants it to be sunny side up in K'taka

Fast-tracking solar rooftop scheme in K'taka; new guidelines simplify adoption process

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New guidelines mandate that all applications be processed online & that the entire procedure, from application submission to meter installation, be completed within 14 days

The state government has issued a critical directive to accelerate the implementation of the Solar Roof (Solar RoofTop) scheme. To overcome the challenges faced by consumers in adopting solar energy, a committee of experts was established in December 2023, chaired by the Managing Director of Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM). Based on the committee's findings, BESCOM has released comprehensive guidelines aimed at simplifying the application process for solar energy and enhancing its efficiency. These guidelines introduce a unified application form, a standardised login process, and a dashboard for all Electricity Supply Companies (ESCOMs).

Additionally, a mobile app for meter reading and bill payment has been developed. The new guidelines mandate that all applications be processed online and that the entire procedure, from application submission to meter installation, be completed within 14 days. Furthermore, a penalty clause has been introduced for officials who cause delays.

The key features of the guidelines include a common application form and login process for all ESCOMs, enabling consumers to apply online and track their application's status. Meter reading and bill payment can now be conveniently handled through a mobile app. The process from application to meter installation will be expedited to a maximum of 14 days, with penalties imposed on officials responsible for any delays. The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) will oversee the implementation of these guidelines, ensuring compliance by all ESCOMs. These measures are designed to promote the use of solar energy and reduce reliance on fossil fuels, advancing the state's commitment to sustainable energy solutions.

An official stated that individuals who choose rooftop solar systems stand to benefit significantly. During the daytime, any excess energy generated is fed back into the grid, while at night, consumers use power supplied by BESCOM. The monthly bill is calculated based on net energy consumption, factoring in both the energy exported to and imported from the grid. Approximately 100 square feet of space is required per kilowatt (kW) for panel installation, with each panel generating around 4-5 units of power daily. Many users can generate up to 15 kW of power, assuming no interruptions in the power supply. However, if there are power outages, the grid-connected system shuts down. On average, an individual can save about Rs 2,500 per month on electricity costs, amounting to an estimated Rs 30,000 in annual savings. One resident mentioned that his rooftop system generates 16 units per day, while he only uses 4 units.

Setting up a rooftop solar power plant is straightforward. Interested individuals can either look for companies that offer comprehensive services, handling everything from obtaining permissions to commissioning the plant, or they can undertake the process themselves. However, to sell power back to the grid, residents must enter into a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with ESCOMs. For those concerned about initial costs, many companies are willing to rent open terraces for their installations.

How to set up a plant

A house on a 30x40 plot can generate around 5 kW using approximately 25 photovoltaic panels on the rooftop. Several companies recognised by the Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (KREDL) provide these panels. Some companies offer full services, including supply, installation, and paperwork, while others only offer technical support.

Costs

According to the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC), setting up a system that generates one kilowatt of power daily costs about Rs 90,000. Thus, installing a 5 kW system on a 30x40 house would cost around Rs 4.5 lakh. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) offers a 30% subsidy for setting up solar power units. To generate 1 MW of power, four to five acres of land are required. Additionally, some companies are open to renting terraces on a monthly basis.

How it works

Photovoltaic panels generate direct current (DC), which an inbuilt inverter converts to alternating current (AC). Unlike regular solar heaters, these panels work in all weather conditions. The rooftop plant connects to BESCOM's grid, and power generated during the day can be supplied to the grid. Using the 'net metering' concept, the power generated and supplied is measured. For instance, if you generate and supply 300 units to the grid but only consume 200 units, ESCOM will pay you for the remaining 100 units.

Who benefits

A rooftop solar power plant significantly reduces electricity bills, and the more power you generate, the more you earn. Additionally, renting out your terrace to solar companies can provide extra income. Increased individual power generation also reduces grid dependence and improves the transmission network of ESCOMs.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Flex trouble

During a recent meeting, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar expressed dismay upon discovering unauthorised flex banners with his image. He addressed his supporters, questioning the reason for these banners' erection despite a ban, citing personal embarrassment. Reflecting on his own past fine of Rs 50,000 by BBMP for similar infractions, he stressed the necessity for swift action. Plans are now in motion to hold Assistant Revenue Officers (AROs) accountable for any flex banners in their wards.

Route trouble

Home Minister G Parameshwara recently expressed strong displeasure towards senior Tumakuru police officials. His frustration stemmed from learning that the Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP) had unauthorisedly rerouted a procession through the national highway, contrary to regulations. This deviation from the approved route caused inconvenience to the public and prompted the Home Minister's swift action. Summoning the DySP to his office, the Home Minister reprimanded him sharply for disregarding protocol. Despite the DySP's explanation that the new route was shorter and less disruptive, the Home Minister insisted that proper procedures must always be followed. The incident unfolded as the Home Minister was en route to Madhugiri to inaugurate a police station, passing through Tumakuru. Upon discovering the route change, he immediately intervened.

No questions please

Earlier, HD Kumaraswamy faced a barrage of media inquiries regarding his nephew Prajwal Revanna's involvement in a scandal. Now, another nephew, Suraj Revanna, finds himself embroiled in a similar situation. Surprisingly, this time around, HDK has remained tight-lipped, prompting journalists to probe him. A visibly irked HDK retorted, "As a union minister, I'm here to address queries related to my ministry or the state's development. I won't comment on personal matters." He also hinted at a possible conspiracy, suggesting that time would unveil the truth.

PhD in polls

Minister N Cheluvarayaswamy, who ascended within JDS but later defected to Congress and now serves as the State's Agriculture Minister, has been engaged in a verbal spat with his former leader and current adversary, HD Kumaraswamy. Kumaraswamy's recent victory in Mandya, where Cheluvarayaswamy serves as the district-in-charge minister, has surprised Congress leaders. When questioned by journalists about his failure to anticipate the win, especially given Kumaraswamy's confident predictions of success in each constituency, Cheluvarayaswamy responded sarcastically, stating, "I acknowledge that HDK may have mastered the art of Mandya elections with a PhD and thus could make accurate predictions. According to him, I may still be in primary school."

'Paunch' story

CM Siddaramaiah shared some intriguing insights into his journey of overcoming addiction. He recounted how, during his college days, he used to smoke excessively, even receiving a box of cigarettes as a gift from friends returning from a foreign trip. Consuming most of them made him realize the extent of his habit, prompting him to take a firm oath to quit smoking. Since then, he proudly stated that he has stayed true to his pledge, emphasizing the importance of steering clear of harmful habits for overall well-being. Discussing his daily health regimen, Siddaramaiah revealed that, when not engaged in elections, he dedicates time to walking on the treadmill and practising Pranayama. However, his health journey took a turn after contracting Covid twice, leading to a need for insulin due to diabetes. This change resulted in the development of a paunch.

Accidental meet

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and former CM HD Kumaraswamy have engaged in a verbal spar, exchanging allegations and openly challenging each other to prove their claims. Both leaders express their willingness to substantiate their accusations if given a platform. A recent encounter near Vidhana Soudha added a touch of intrigue to their exchange. Kumaraswamy was seen walking out as Siddaramaiah was entering the premises. Journalists gathered there anticipated a confrontation, but to their surprise, both leaders exchanged polite greetings and continued on their paths without engaging in further conversation. It was a brief and cordial encounter.

-Sridhar Vivan

Trump assassination bid: All we know so far about culprit

Father of 20-yr-old tells TV channel he is trying to figure out 'what the hell is going on'

The man identified as the shooter in the apparent assassination attempt of former President Donald Trump was a 20-year-old from a Pittsburgh suburb not far from the campaign rally where one attendee was killed.

Investigators were working Sunday to gather more information about Thomas Matthew Crooks of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, who they say opened fire at the rally before being killed by Secret Service days before Trump was to accept the Republican nomination for a third time. An FBI official said late Saturday that investigators had not yet determined a motive. Two spectators were critically injured, authorities said.

Relatives of Crooks didn't immediately respond to messages from The Associated Press. His father, Matthew Crooks, told CNN late Saturday that he was trying to figure out "what the hell is going on" but wouldn't speak about his son until after he talked to law enforcement.

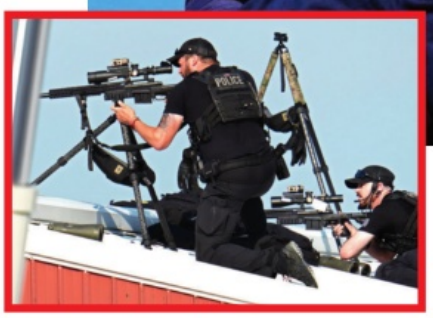
A blockade had been set up Sunday preventing traffic near Crooks' house, which is in an enclave of modest brick houses nestled in the hills of blue-collar Pittsburgh. Crooks' political leanings were not immediately clear. Records show Crooks was registered as a Republican voter in Pennsylvania, but federal campaign finance reports also show he gave $15 to a progressive political action committee on Jan. 20, 2021, the day President Joe Biden was sworn in to office.

Public Pennsylvania court records show no past criminal cases against Crooks.

The FBI released his identity early Sunday morning, hours after the shooting. Authorities told reporters that Crooks was not carrying identification so they were using DNA and other methods to confirm his identity. Law enforcement recovered an AR-style rifle at the scene, according to a person familiar with the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the ongoing investigation.

WORLD

An AP analysis of more than a dozen videos and photos from the scene of the Trump rally, as well as satellite imagery of the site, shows the shooter was able to get close to the stage where the former president was speaking.



Former US President Donald Trump raises his fist as he is helped off the stage at a rally by US Secret Service agents; (Inset) Police snipers return fire after shots were fired while Trump was speaking at a campaign event in Butler, Pa., on Saturday

The roof where the person lay was less than 150 metre from where Trump was speaking, a distance from which a decent marksman could reasonably hit a human-sized targets

A video posted to social media and geolocated by the AP shows the body of a person wearing gray camouflage lying motionless on the roof of a building at AGR International Inc., a manufacturing plant just north of the Butler Farm Show grounds where Trump's rally was held. The roof where the person lay was less than 150 meters (164 yards) from where Trump was speaking, a distance from which a decent marksman could reasonably hit a human-sized target. For reference, 150 meters is a distance at which U.S. Army recruits must hit a scaled human-sized silhouette to qualify with the M-16 rifle.

Investigators believe the weapon was bought by the father at least six months ago, two law enforcement officials told The Associated Press.

The officials said federal agents were still working to understand when and how Thomas Crooks obtained the gun. The officials were not authorised to publicly discuss details of the investigation and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity. **– AP**

Bus fare hike inevitable: KSRTC

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation chairperson S R Srinivas on Sunday said the fare hike in government buses in the state was inevitable.

He said the KSRTC has submitted a proposal to the state government to increase the fare by 15 to 20 per cent. "We had a board meeting two days ago. We have proposed a hike of 15 per cent to 20 per cent. The rest is up to the discretion of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. If KSRTC is to survive, fare hike is inevitable," Srinivas said. Noting that the prices of fuel and auto parts have gone up substantially, the KSRTC chairperson said the fare hike has not been effected since 2019. **BMB**

New scam targets citizens

Bengaluru is witnessing a new scam involving fraudulent WhatsApp messages. Victims receive messages from individuals posing as "Senior Verification Managers" of a 'Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL)' application, demanding overdue payments. The message typically reads: "This is the Senior Verification Manager from BNPL Application. Your payment has been pending for 75 days. If you pay the full amount by 2 PM, we will remove the late penalty charges. Failure to pay by 2 PM may result in your account being permanently blocked, and you may receive a notice. For assistance, contact our customer service team."

Police have advised victims to "register a complaint at the nearest police station". Authorities urge citizens to avoid making any payments to unknown contacts."We don't know what is genuine anymore. I am educated and that's how I know that the messages are fraud. However, there are many people who can be deceived by the fraudsters," said Venkata Teja. He added, "I have received this message twice, and I decided to inform police to create awareness." **–Ahna Prakash**

Cauvery: Will release 8,000 cusecs water to TN, says CM

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday said the Karnataka government was ready to release 8,000 cusecs of water from the Cauvery river every day to neighbouring Tamil Nadu instead of one TMC as directed by the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee till this month-end.

There is only 63 per cent water in the Cauvery basin dams and in this situation, the state was not in a position to release one TMC water each day, the Chief Minister told reporters after an all-party meeting here.

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka, JD(S) MLA G T Deve Gowda, farmer leaders and legal experts attended the meeting.

"Everyone was of the opinion that we should release 8,000 cusecs of water and not one TMC, which is 11,500 cusecs of water. If there is no rain then we will minimise the release of water and file an appeal before the Cauvery Water Management Authority," Siddaramaiah said.

According to him, the Cauvery Water Regulatory Authority has directed that starting from July 12 till the month-end, every day one TMC water has to be released.

In a normal year, 9.14 TMC in June and 31.24 TMC in July should be released, he explained.

Siddaramaiah, Shivakumar at all-party meeting on Sunday

Siddaramaiah said all parties in Karnataka were unanimous that they should appeal to the CWMA stating that releasing 1 TMC water was not possible

Advocate Mohan Katarki, who was present in the meeting, said this time Krishnarajasagar dam on Cauvery river has only 54 per cent water whereas other dams in the Cauvery basin have only 63 per cent water, Siddaramaiah said.

On July 12, the inflow of water was 5,000 cusec water in Kabini, which was allowed to flow towards Tamil Nadu, the Chief Minister said, adding that 5,000 cusecs water was flowing in Biligundlu on Saturday.

He explained that on July 12, 20,000 cusecs and 19,000 cusecs on July 13 was released for Tamil Nadu from Kabini dam because water cannot be stored for long due to its holding capacity.

Siddarmaaiah said all the parties in Karnataka were unanimous that they should appeal to the CWMA stating that releasing one TMC water was not possible. "Katarki said we cannot say we cannot release water because it will be disrespectful to the Cauvery Tribunal. We will release 8,000 cusecs. If there is good rain then it is okay to release one TMC. We are expecting good rains this time," he noted.

The Chief Minister said 2023 was a 'distress year' with scanty rainfall.

"In a normal year, we release 177 TMC but last year we released only 81 TMC water," he added. **–PTI**

Citizens unsure of closing time extension request

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

issued online, but the licence is not issued till the applicant visits the excise office," he said.

Veerendra N Kamath, honorary secretary, BBHA, also said that allowing pubs or restaurant stay open would benefit many.

The BBHA claimed that it collects excise tax of more than Rs 100 crore per day apart from paying Rs 9 lakh to Rs 10 lakh licence fee to the excise department. It has also stated that the excise department has failed to consider the applications seeking the change of licence from CL7 to CL6 even after paying the specified fee. CL6 and CL7 are the type of licences issued by the Excise Department to hotels and boarding homes to serve liquor.

State Bar Owners Association vice president Karunakar Hegde said that all the owners of bars, pubs and restaurants would stage a dharna at the Freedom Park on July 18 in support of their long-pending demands.

"Some of our demands, including that for the issue of new guidelines, have been pending for quite a long time. We are facing a lot of problems due to illogical and unnecessary norms. We are planning to stage a dharna seeking the government to simplify the excise norms," said Hegde.

When informed about opposition from residents for keeping bars, pubs and restaurants open at certain localities in the city, Hegde said that all establishments must follow the norms if they are playing music to avoid noise pollution.

No! say citizens

R Rajagopalan of Bengaluru Residents Welfare Association, however, said that the government must not extend the existing time for keeping open hotels, pubs, bars and restaurants in the city. "Who will monitor them on a daily basis? I am of the opinion that the authorities should opt for the 11 pm norm," said Rajagopalan.

Expressing a similar opinion, Sneha Nandihal, a resident of Indiranagar, said that extension of existing time for bars, pubs, and restaurants would cause inconvenience to the residents. "Most of the pubs and bars do not have sufficient parking space on par with the footfalls.

Extension of time for pubs and bars would also cause a rise in crime against women and noise pollution. It would be better if the authorities prefer 11 pm for the closure of pubs and bars," said Nandihal.

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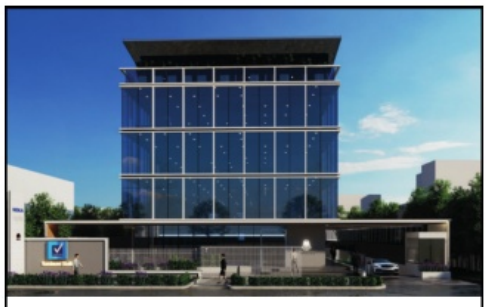

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Pineapple juice has been a great option over cough syrups to help treat cough

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Let artificial intelligence guide you?

Why AI health coach won't solve world's chronic disease problems

Last week, two big names in the artificial intelligence (AI) and wellness industries announced a collaboration to develop a "customised, hyper-personalised AI health coach that will be available as a mobile app" to "reverse the trend lines on chronic diseases".

Sam Altman (head of OpenAI, maker of ChatGPT) and Arianna Huffington (a former media executive who runs a high-tech wellness company called Thrive Global) announced their new company, Thrive AI Health, in a Time magazine advertorial.

Health is an appealing direction for an AI industry that has promised to transform civilisation, but whose huge growth of the past couple of years is beginning to look like it's stalling. Companies and investors have pumped billions into the technology, but it is still often a solution looking for problems.

Meanwhile, venture capitalists Sequoia and the investment bank Goldman Sachs are wondering out loud whether enough revenue and consumer demand will ever emerge to make this bubble feel more solid.

Enter the next big thing: AI that will change our behaviour, for our own good.

Personalised nudges and real-time recommendations

Altman and Huffington say Thrive AI Health will use the "best peer-reviewed science" and users' "personal biometric, lab and other medical data" to "learn your preferences and patterns across the five behaviours" that are key to improving health and treating chronic diseases: sleep, food, movement, stress management and social connection.

Whether you are "a busy professional with diabetes" or somebody without "access to trainers, chefs and life coaches" — the only two user profiles the pair mention — the Thrive AI Health coach aims to use behavioural data to create "personalised nudges and real-time recommendations" to change your daily habits.

Soon, supposedly, everybody will have access to the "life-saving benefits" of a mobile app that tells you — in a precisely targeted way — to sleep more, eat better, exercise regularly, be less stressed and go touch grass with friends. These "superhuman" technologies, combined with the "superpowers" of incentives, will change the world by changing our "tiny daily acts".

Despite claims that AI has unlocked yet another innovation, when I read Altman and Huffington's announcement I was struck by a sense of deja vu.

> **Health is an appealing direction for an AI industry that has promised to transform civilisation, but whose huge growth is looking like it's stalling**

Insurance that manages your life

Why did Thrive AI Health and the logic behind it sound so familiar? Because it's a kind of thinking we are seeing more and more in the insurance industry.

In fact, in an article published last year I suggested we might soon see "total life insurance" bundled with "a personalised AI life coach", which would combine data from various sources in our daily lives to target us with prompts for how to behave in healthier, less risky ways. It would of course take notes and report back to our insurers and doctors when we do not follow these recommendations.

In a related article, my colleagues Kelly Lewis and Zofia Bednarz and I took a close look at the theories of behavioural risk that might power such products. A model of insurance based on managing people's lives via digital technology is on the rise.

We examined a company called Vitality, which makes behavioural change platforms for health and life insurance. Vitality frames itself as an "active life partner with […] customers", using targeted interventions to improve customer well-being and its own bottom line.

Similar projects in the past have had questionable results. A 2019 World Health Organization report on digital health intervention said: The enthusiasm for digital health has also driven a proliferation of short-lived implementations and an overwhelming diversity of digital tools, with a limited understanding of their impact on health systems and people's wellbeing.

Hyper-personalisation

Altman and Huffington say AI-enabled "hyper-personalisation" means this time will be different. Are they right? I don't think so.

The first problem is there is no guarantee the AI will work as promised. There is no reason to think it won't be plagued by the problems of bias, hallucination and errors we see in cutting-edge AI models like ChatGPT.

However, even if it does, it will still miss the mark because the idea of hyper-personalisation is based on a flawed theory of how change happens.

An individualised "AI health coach" is a way to address widespread chronic health problems only if you envision a world in which there is no society – just individuals making choices. Those choices turn into habits. Those habits, over time, create problems. Those problems can be rooted out by individuals making better choices. Those better choices come from an AI guardian nudging you in the right direction.

And why do people make bad choices, in this vision? Perhaps, like middle-class professionals, they are too busy. They need reminders to eat a salad and stretch in the sunshine during their 12-hour workday.

Or – again from the AI health coach perspective – perhaps, like disadvantaged people, they make bad choices out of ignorance. They need to be informed that eating fast food is wrong, and they should instead cook a healthy meal at home.

The social determinants of healthcare apps

But individual lifestyle choices aren't everything. In fact, the "social determinants of health" can be far more important. These are the social conditions that determine a person's access to health care, quality food, free time and all the things needed to have a good life.

Technologies like Thrive AI Health are not interested in fundamental social conditions. Their "personalisation" is a short-sighted view that stops at the individual.

The only place society enters Altman and Huffington's vision is as something that must help their product succeed: Policymakers need to create a regulatory environment that fosters AI innovation […] Health care providers need to integrate AI into their practices […] And individuals need to be fully empowered through AI coaching to better manage their daily health […]

And if we don't bend society to fit the AI models? Presumably we will only have ourselves to blame.

(By Jathan Sadowski, Monash University, The Conversation)

All you need to know about...

3 DIY Face Masks

Nourishment for Dry Skin
Use the super-hydrating avocados that are loaded with fatty acids and vitamin A, D and E to infuse hydration to the skin.

Ingredients:
1 ripe avocado
1 tablespoon yogurt
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 tablespoon honey
Combine mashed avocados with all the ingredients and apply liberally on the skin. When you wash it off after 15 to 20 minutes, your skin will feel super plump and soft.

Glow for Dull & Tired Skin
Papaya is great if you're looking to transform your dull and lifeless skin and add glow and radiance. Papaya contains enzymes that exfoliate the skin gently, while the vitamins in it soften and brighten the skin. Adding a dash of cocoa powder can accelerate the detoxifying process.

Ingredients:
1 bowl of mashed Papaya
1 tablespoon cocoa powder
4 - 5 tablespoons aloe vera gel
Combine all these ingredients and apply using a flat brush. Keep it for about 15 minutes. While washing it off, use circular motions to exfoliate.

Youthfulness for Ageing Skin
Mature skin just needs a boost of glow and what better than berries to brighten the skin? Antioxidant-rich berries are excellent glow boosters and enhance your complexion.

Ingredients:
1 cup of raspberries
1 cup of strawberries
1 green tea bag
Boil the green tea sachet for a while in some water. Cut the sachet and transfer the wet green tea into a bowl. Once it cools down, add chopped berries and begin to mash it together. It will be slightly thick and gritty, that's how it should be. Apply this on your face for 15 minutes and wash off with cold water. **-Femina**

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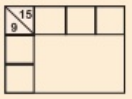
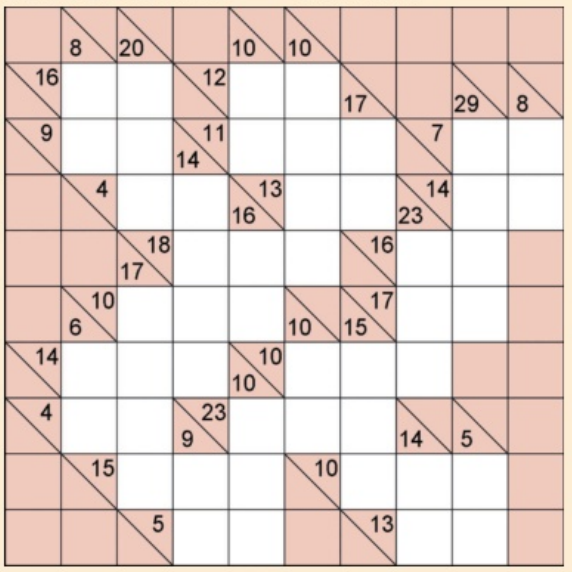
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

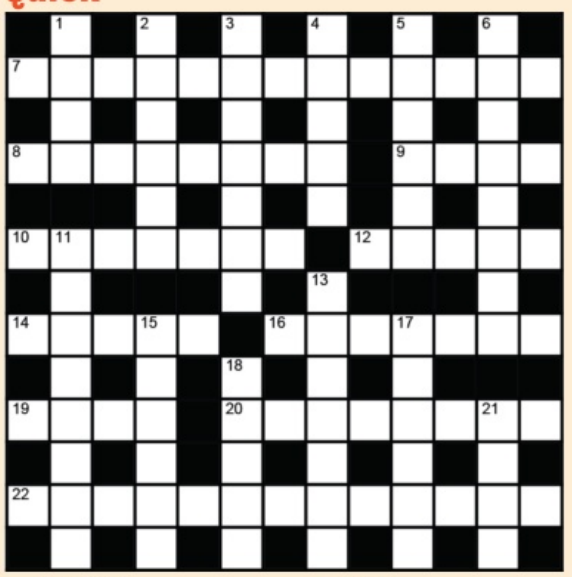


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Breakdown, rotting (13)
8 Gagged or muffled (8)
9 Meeting point (4)
10 Popular music streaming service (7)
12 Summed (5)
14 Christmas foliage (5)
16 Solicit votes (7)
19 Edict, an absolute order (4)
20 Mourning (8)
22 Kane And Abel author (7,6)

DOWN

1 Himalayan myth (4)
2 Unassuming by nature (6)
3 Spell out (7)
4 To or on one direction, away or apart? (5)
5 Made good (6)
6 Infantrymen, troopers (8)
11 Gave one's word? (8)
13 Hospital on Airport road (7)
15 Allow or cause to escape? (3,3)
17 Musical direction meaning 'lively' (6)
18 Just say yes (5)
21 Require (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: D EQUALS G

QSB JHA YSF LAPLPQP FA PB-BLAD YLQS IBMGBOQ OWB-HMABPP NBGFMB SB XBOLXBP, ABRBM XBOLXBP.

Linemaro

Are you made of copper and tellurium? Because you are CuTe

Mindchow

The art of parenting is to teach the art of living to children

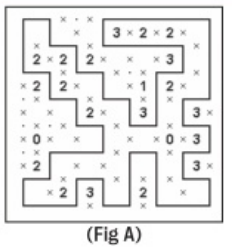
Joke of the day

If you have a bad cough, take a large dose of laxatives. Then you will be afraid to cough

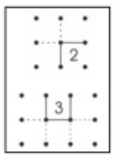
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

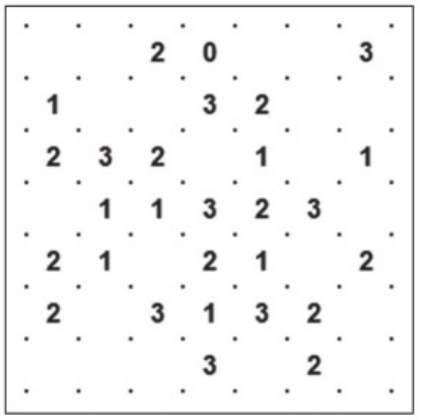


(Fig B) Not Allowed

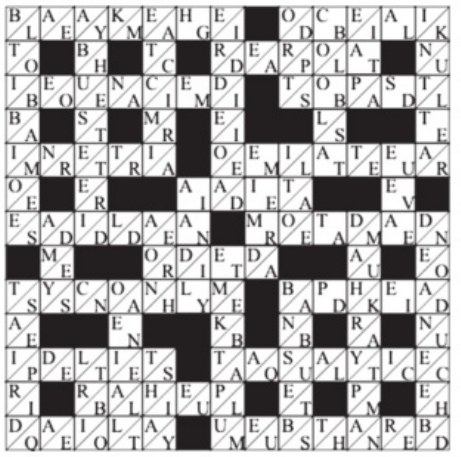
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



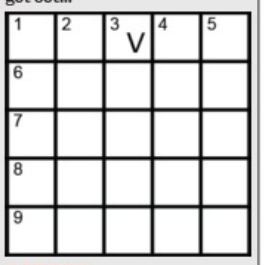
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Lever; 6 Evil a; 7 Rated; 8 Try Ne; 9 Outer

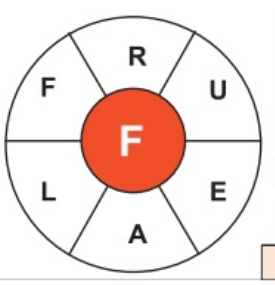
DOWN

1 A tree; 2 No all; 3 IV rut; 4 Revet; 5 Reedy

Mensapuzzle

Decipher this dingbat:

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; **11** Good; **13** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	8	6	2		3	1	4	
	4						5	
			4		6			
6	3						1	9
	5		6		7		8	
2	1						7	5
			7		8			
	6						3	
	7	9	1		5	8	6	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 20

3 4 4 9

Medium = 12

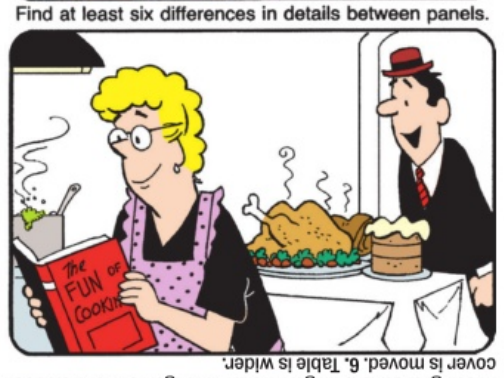
2 3 5 6

Hard = 64

1 4 9 3

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Apron bow is missing. 2. Briefcase is missing. 3. Cake is larger. 4. Hair is longer. 5. Word on book cover is moved. 6. Table is wider.

Riddler

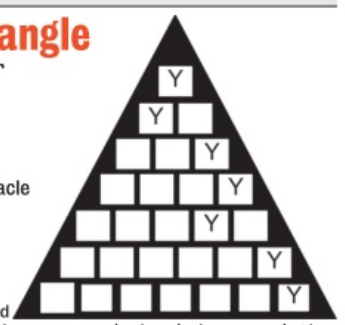
Which artist from Group B can be added to Group A? Why?

Group A: Carly Simon, Duran Duran, Lulu, Paul McCartney and Wings, Sheena Easton, Shirley Bassey

Group B: Elvis Presley, Fleetwood Mac, Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass, Madonna, Nancy Sinatra, Nat King Cole, Rita Coolidge, Tina Turner

Alpha triangle

1 Second last letter
2 Yes, slang
3 Opine out loud
4 Remain behind
5 Platters
6 Misdirected
7 Smoker's receptacle



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

POPEYE LOVES OLIVE OYL AND HATES VIPER VELMA!
I CAN'T HELP WHAT I DO WHEN I'M VELMA!
WHAT TO DO? I LOVE BEING ABLE TO FLY AND BEING A TRUE HEROINE!
BUT I DO LOVE POPEYE, AND HE'D HATE ME IF HE FOUND OUT THE TRUTH!
10-19

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft

CENTERVILLE HARDWARE
GOING OUT OF BUSINESS
30 SECONDS EARLIER.
IF THERE'S ONE THING YOU CAN COUNT ON BEING THERE FOR YOU, MITCH... IT'S THE CENTERVILLE HARDWARE STORE!
SHOPPE
SALE
BATIUK & DAVIS
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4-10

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you're likely to be in a good mood this morning, which might make you feel romantic. You are advised to do some exercise to overcome your back pain. You may make some fruitful plans, which may be helpful in the near future in terms of profession. You may likely hear good news from your kids. Students may do better. Love birds can make some important decisions in terms of marriage.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you may likely meet some old friends or be busy in social get-togethers. You may be more excited today. Innovations may be there in terms of business. You may likely have some unexpected material gains. Kids may give good news in terms of studies. Love birds may enjoy their quality moments.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, it's advised to control your spending on unnecessary items, as it could impact your savings. You are advised to avoid lending money. Anxiety may lead to sleeplessness, so try to control your mind when making important decisions. You are advised not to neglect your responsibilities. You are advised to be practical today. You should avoid making emotional decisions.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, your investments may give you profits, which may enhance your savings. You may likely get good profits in small investments. On the domestic front, your family may support you to maintain harmony. You may also be in the winning position from opponents and hidden enemies. You may likely get promotions or may have a job change, which may likely increase professional stability.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may expect instant gains in your business, which may boost your confidence level as well as your bank balance. It is advised to avoid stress in domestic life. There would be some momentum on the business and work front. Your prestige may be increased. You may plan for an overseas trip.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, students may expect positive results in their studies after in-depth research. Singles may expect to find a soul match. There may be a good understanding between you and your spouse, which will reflect on your domestic life. Spiritually you may have some direction in terms of knowledge. In business, you may make new plans to overcome workflow issues

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, things would not be favourable. You may feel dull and unhappy. Some mysterious fear may make you upset. You may likely be attracted to the occult. You may feel a lack of confidence, which may affect your work. It is advised to avoid rash driving and risky adventure tours.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you may be able to make a balance between your earnings and expenses, which may boost your bank balance. You may likely perform better in your job. Your boss can give you new responsibilities in terms of promotions. You may get back your money which was stuck. You may be able to control your opponents and hidden enemies.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may expect some smart gains from your past investments. You may likely achieve your goals with less effort, which may make you confident. You are advised to control your straightforwardness; it may likely affect your terms with the people around you. Couples are advised to avoid arguments on pointless topics to maintain harmony.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you may feel negative vibrations around you, which may make you unhappy. You are advised to avoid making investments in worthless assets. You may also notice that friends and people around you may not be supportive today. You are advised not to expect more from anyone in terms of help, otherwise it may make you nervous. It is advised to make independent decisions today.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you may not be able to present yourself logically. You may have a dull feeling, which may give you a lack of confidence. Hence you need to follow your intuition while making decisions in terms of investment. People around you may not be cooperative in terms of routine work. You are advised to be careful in eating unhealthy food to avoid stomach issues.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you are likely to be more excited due to the cooperation of your family and friends. You may plan to renovate your house or bring some souvenirs to maintain your standard, which may increase your social status. You may expect an increase in your fixed assets.

KIDZONE

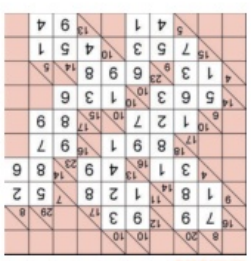
Nandini Agarwal, 8 Years, Presidency School

P Hitakshi, 7 Years, Sacred Heart Girls High School

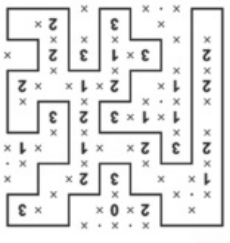
Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

KAKURO



LOOP



ALPHA TRIANGLE

y, Ya, Say, Stay, Trays, Astray, Ashtray.

GO FIGURE

Easy
4 + 4 + 9 + 3 = 20
Medium
6 + 5 + 3 − 2 = 12
Hard
3 + 4 x 9 + 1 = 64

SUDOKU

5	8	6	2	9	3	1	4	7
3	4	2	8	7	1	9	5	6
7	9	1	4	5	6	3	2	8
6	3	7	5	8	2	4	1	9
9	5	4	6	1	7	2	8	3
2	1	8	3	4	9	6	7	5
1	2	3	7	6	8	5	9	4
8	6	5	9	2	4	7	3	1
4	7	9	1	3	5	8	6	2

MENSA PUZZLE

diamond-in-the-rough

SOLVE IN 1M

(1) 4+8+6−(13)=720
4+8+6−13−720= −715

QUOTE UNCODE

The man who insists on seeing with perfect clearness before he decides, never decides.

QUICK

STRIKE OUT

BULL'S EYE

earful, fare, fear, FEARFUL, feral, flare, flea, flue, fuel, furl, leaf, rafile, ruffle

FAST FIVE

RIDDLER

The artists in Group A performed the title songs for the James Bond movies that starred Roger Moore in the title role. Rita Coolidge can be added to Group A. Live and Let Die – Paul McCartney and Wings, The Man With the Golden Gun – Lulu, The Spy Who Loved Me – Carly Simon, Moonraker – Shirley Bassey, For Your Eyes Only – Sheena Easton, Octopussy – Rita Coolidge, A View to a Kill – Duran Duran

Volume No 17, Issue No 140 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru - 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

For a reason and rhyme

Sara Ali Khan regales fans with poem for her brother

Sara Ali Khan and Ibrahim Ali Khan, have always set benchmarks when it comes to sibling relationships, they have always been each other's biggest cheerleaders and constant support. The actress recently took to Instagram to share a poem about her brother, who is all set to make his debut with the film Sarzameen backed by Karan Johar's production house and co-starring Prithviraj and Kajol.

Sara's poem reads, "Since you were in a nappy, you've made your sister happy, even if my shayari make you snappy, I guess my love language is cheesy and snappy, so just laugh my giraffe even if it's only on my behalf, And if you are ashamed of me I'll come say maaf maaf. Along with the poem, Sara also shared an image of them together, from the recently held Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant's wedding.

Sara will next be seen in Dinesh Vijan's Sky Force with Akshay Kumar. She also has Anurag Basu's Metro…In Dino with her, she is paired opposite Aditya Roy Kapoor in the film. This apart, there is also a Dharma film with Ayushmann Khurrana in the pipeline. Ibrahim also has his second film up his sleeve, which has been reportedly titled Naadaniyaan opposite Khushi Kapoor. **–ETimes**

Regina in crime thriller

Academy Award winner Regina King is all set to star alongside Austin Butler and Zoe Kravitz in the crime thriller 'Caught Stealing', according to Deadline.

Huston's cinematic adaptation follows Hank Thompson (Butler), a burned-out former baseball star, as he unknowingly becomes embroiled in a chaotic struggle for survival in the downtown criminal underworld of 1990s New York City.

Darren Aronofsky's crime thriller for Sony Pictures is based on the books by Charlie Huston. King won an Academy Award and other accolades for her supporting turn in Barry Jenkins' If Beale Street Could Talk. King has also won four Emmys for her work on series including Watchmen, American Crime, and Seven Seconds. Recently, she portrayed America's first Black Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm in writer-director John Ridley's Netflix pic Shirley, also exec producing and directing on David E. Kelley's Netflix show A Man in Full, based on the novel by Tom Wolfe. **–ANI**

Devotional moments

Anushka Sharma, who is currently in London, attended a kirtan led by the famous Krishna Das at Union Chapel.

Taking to her Instagram account on Sunday, Anushka shared glimpses from the kirtan and tagged Krishna Das.

Krishna Das is an American singer famous for his performances of Hindu devotional music called kirtan. In 2013, he performed at the Grammy Awards, where his album Live Ananda was nominated for Best New Age Album. The New York Times has called him "the chant master of American yoga."

Just a couple of days ago, Anushka dropped an appreciation post for Team India following their T20 World Cup victory.

In another post, Anushka shared a picture of Virat as he smiled and lifted the trophy.

The actor captioned the post, "AND ..... I love this man (red heart emoji) @virat.kohli . So grateful to call you my home (red heart emoji)- now go have a glass of sparkling water for me to celebrate this! (Wink and kissing face emojis)."

Virat and Anushka tied the knot on December 11, 2017, in Italy. The duo was blessed with Vamika on January 11, 2021.

In February, the star couple announced the birth of their baby boy, 'Akaay'. **–ANI**

Wimbledon style

Bollywood actress Sonam Kapoor, recently seen in the streaming movie 'Blind', attended the Wimbledon Women's Final in London.

Making a fashion statement, the actress exuded elegance and style. She donned an outfit designed by Bottega Veneta. For the occasion, she chose a sophisticated striking long yellow, blue, and black dress layered with the Optical Crinkle Cotton Check ensemble from the Pre-Fall 24 collection.

The outfit featured a long-sleeved white, blue, and black shirt and a matching long skirt. She accessorised her look with a pair of sleek Tex Mule shoes in black, also from the Pre-Fall 24 collection. Adding a touch of exclusivity, Sonam carried the Liberta bag in black from the Winter 24 special preview, making a chic and timeless fashion statement at the prestigious event.

Sonam, who is known as a fashion icon in the Hindi film industry, has long been celebrated for her impeccable fashion sense. Her consistently brilliant sartorial choices have made her a favourite among top fashion brands worldwide.

As she gears up for her comeback after her pregnancy, Sonam has two major projects lined up, including 'Battle for Bittora', with details of the second tentpole project being kept under wraps. The actress and her husband Anand Ahuja welcomed their son, Vayu, in August 2022. **–IANS**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Shoot in progress

The shooting of RC Studios' maiden movie Father is in progress at a century-old house in Mysuru. Prakash Raj, Darling Krishna, and Amrutha Iyengar are the prominent cast in the movie. Darling Krishna is sharing the screen with Prakash Raj for the first time. "It is my better-half Milana who insisted that I act in this movie as its script is very interesting. I have been waiting for an opportunity to share the screen with Prakash Raj sir. There were occasions when I forgot my dialogues as I admired Prakash Raj sir's acting skills," said Darling Krishna.

Prakash Raj and Darling Krishna are playing father and son in the movie.

Congratulating R Chandru for planning to bankroll five movies, Prakash Raj said he was supposed to act in Kabza but could not do so. "The script of Father is very good and is very close to my heart. I was impressed when the director narrated the script to me. I am happy to know R Chandru's plan to bankroll five movies," Prakash Raj said.

Chandru said bankrolling five movies is not easy but his love for movies made him go ahead. "Father's story is relatable to all fathers and sons," he said.

Eyes on newcomer

There is no dearth of newcomers in Sandalwood and now another actor, Rohith, is set to join this list. Rohith plays the lead in Rakthaksha.

The trailer of Rakthaksha, that is scheduled for release on July 26, was released by actors Vijay Raghavendra and Suman Nagarkar on Thursday. Vijay Raghavendra stressed on the need to keep the story under wraps till the movie release. "Nowadays movie buffs are clever. They have the ability to understand the story by watching a teaser or trailer of the movie," he said.

Senior actor Suman Nagarkar said the trailer hints at this being a story of serial murders with three to four actresses. "My husband plays a police officer in the movie. The team of the movie has worked hard," said Nagarkar. Rohith has bankrolled the movie under the Sai Production House banner. "I established a good name in theater. Now, I want to establish myself as an actor in Sandalwood," he said.

The movie features Roopa Rayappa, Archana Kottige, Rachana Dasarath and others.